

CLAIMS

1. An odor-containment system for use with a flexible bag and a receptacle for holding waste items, the system comprising:

5 a body configured to be connected to the receptacle for holding waste items, the body providing a passageway through the body; and

a plurality of sealing members attached, directly or indirectly, to the body and disposed across the passageway, the sealing members being disposed adjacent to each other in a static, closed position of the system such that a flexible bag inserted between
10 the sealing members will be forced closed;

wherein the body is configured to cover an opening of the receptacle for receiving the waste items;

wherein the sealing members are attached to the body such that the sealing members can separate from each other to permit one of the waste items to be inserted
15 between the sealing members; and

wherein the sealing members are biased toward the static, closed position with the sealing members adjacent to each other such that when a waste moves out from between the sealing members, the sealing members will return to their static positions adjacent to each other.

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2. The system of claim 1 further comprising the flexible bag, wherein the flexible bag is configured to self-seal.

25 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the flexible bag is configured to at least one of adhere to itself and statically bond to itself.

4. The system of claim 1 further comprising the flexible bag, wherein the flexible bag is configured to at least one of produce an odor-masking scent, absorb odors, and neutralize odors.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising the receptacle and a fullness indicator configured to provide at least one indication of a fullness of the receptacle.

5 6. The system of claim 5 wherein the fullness indicator comprises a pivot arm coupled to the receptacle and configured to point toward a first indication while waste in the receptacle reaches less than a threshold height and to move to point toward a second indication if waste in the receptacle reaches at least the threshold height.

10 7. An odor-containment apparatus comprising:
a body configured to receive and store odor-producing articles, the body having first and second ends, the second end being closed to retain the odor-producing articles in a chamber defined by the body, the body being made of a material configured to inhibit odor from passing through the body, at least a portion of the body spanning a first area in
15 an open position; and

an odor-inhibiting sleeve defining a through passage, the sleeve having a first end connected to the first end of the body, and having a second end that spans a second area in an open position, the second area being smaller than the first area, the second end of the sleeve providing an opening such that the passage of the sleeve is in fluid communication with the chamber defined by the body with the sleeve and the body in open positions;

wherein the sleeve is configured to repeatedly attach to itself, at least on an inner surface, to self-seal the passage thereby inhibiting odors in the chamber defined by the body from passing through the sleeve; and

25 wherein the sleeve is configured to detach from itself to allow an article to pass through the sleeve into the chamber of the body, and to re-attach to itself after the article passes through the sleeve.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the second end of the sleeve is disposed

between the first and second ends of the body.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the sleeve is configured to at least one of produce an odor-masking scent, absorb odors, neutralize odors, kill bacteria, and inhibit
5 bacteria growth.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the sleeve contains material configured to be activated by at least one of heat, pressure, and time to release an odor-masking scent.

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11. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising an attaching mechanism connected to the body and configured to attach to a trash receptacle and to hold the apparatus in place as waste articles are deposited in the body through the sleeve.

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12. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the body and the sleeve are portions of a monolithic material.

13. An odor-containing apparatus comprising:
a body configured to receive and store odor-producing articles, the body being of a
20 material configured to resist odors passing through the body, the body providing an opening sized and shaped to receive the odor-producing articles; and
a flap connected to the body to be disposed about the opening provided by the body and to allow the flap to move away from the opening, the flap being configured to releasably and repeatedly attach to the body about the opening provided by the body;
25 wherein odors are inhibited from escaping from an interior of the body through the opening while the flap is attached to the body about the opening.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the flap comprises at least one of a rigid material, a semi-rigid material, a semi-rigid member coupled to a flexible material, a

semi-rigid member embedded in a flexible material.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the flap is connected to the body to return to being disposed about the opening after being moved away from the opening.

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16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the body is configured to attach to the flap to seal the opening.

17. A disposable odor-containment bag comprising a material that is
10 configured to stretch and to adhere to itself, the bag having an open end providing an opening for receiving articles, a closed end, and a substantially tubular-shaped midsection connecting the open end and the closed end, wherein the midsection is configured to stretch to receive articles deposited through the open end and to self seal by adhering to itself to close the midsection to form an intermediate closure disposed between the closed
15 end and the open end.